

ARMY PROGRAMS

Transportation Coordinators' Automated Information for Movement System II (TC-AIMS II)

The Transportation Coordinators' Automated Information for Movements System II (TC-AIMS II) is designed to reduce the buildup time in the movement of materiel and personnel and to integrate current Service-unique transportation information systems into a single joint system. TC-AIMS II automates the processes of planning, organizing, coordinating, and controlling unit deployments, sustainment, and redeployments. Future enhancements will automate the day-to-day transportation operations performed by military bases and installations. TC-AIMS II interfaces with installation, unit and depot-level supply systems, the Global Transportation Network, and the Joint Operational Planning and Execution System. In its current configuration, the system provides a means for transportation personnel at the unit level to receive tasking for deployment of their unit, match assigned personnel and equipment to the requirements, provide the information to higher headquarters in a standard deployment format, and then prepare their unit for movement – to include producing shipping labels and tags. The Program Manager (PM) is following an evolutionary acquisition strategy to periodically release blocks of increasing functionality.

The Joint Requirements Oversight Council approved the Operational Requirements Document in March 1999. Following a series of operational testing and retesting that culminated in 2002, the Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC), the lead operational test agency, determined that TC-AIMS II Block 1 was operationally effective, suitable, and survivable for the Army and Navy, but not for the Marine Corps or the Air Force. DOT&E concurred, and Block 1 was subsequently fielded to the Navy, to U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR), to an Army brigade at Fort Lewis, Washington, and to Army units in Hawaii and Alaska. The Marine Corps expects its requirements to be satisfied by the next release, Block 2. The Air Force determined that TC-AIMS II would not contain the functionality to satisfy its requirements (which are primarily at the installation level) until Block 5.

TEST & EVALUATION ACTIVITY

DOT&E approved an updated Test and Evaluation Master Plan and a Block 2 OT&E Plan in July 2003.

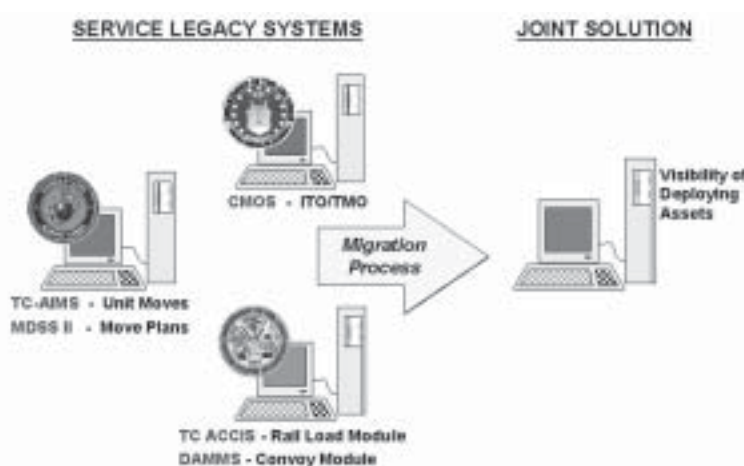
The PM conducted developmental testing on Block 2 in June and July 2003. The PM issued software to Army and Navy beta test sites and conducted training of prospective users preparatory to operational testing.

ATEC conducted Army operational testing at Fort Lewis, Washington, in August 2003. ATEC began Navy operational testing late September 2003.

TEST & EVALUATION ASSESSMENT

The TC-AIMS II acquisition suffered from the lack of a common unit movement process across the Services and the absence of a single, authoritative user representative. During 2003, the United States Joint Forces Command assumed the responsibility for this role, but a joint unit movement process has yet to be developed. This has presented the PM with the difficult task of building a single system that is expected to satisfy the separate requirements of all four Services. Driven by the schedule, IOT&E took place before many users had much experience using the system. The first Block 1 system under test did not satisfactorily meet any Services' requirements and many of the required interfaces were inoperable.

The users, the PM, ATEC, and Joint Forces Command managed to identify and incorporate effective fixes for many of these problems. The



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PM adopted a short-term/long-term plan that identified certain users (Navy and USAREUR) who had achieved relative success during IOT&E and who wished to acquire the system as soon as practicable. The PM made the required short term fixes based on IOT&E data, and ATEC tested them. ATEC's evaluation focused on the fundamental ability of the system to produce timely and accurate critical mission functions. Meanwhile, Army major commands addressed TC-AIMS II techniques and procedures during functional operations at the Fort Lewis beta site. The TC-AIMS II acquisition community adopted a similar strategy for the longer term.

ATEC and DOT&E are evaluating the results of the Block 2 Army operational testing. Preliminary results from the Army testing indicate that the software is still immature and that several deficiencies will need to be corrected before Block 2 is ready for fielding. The Army is pursuing the prospect of establishing of an additional beta site in the Korea in order to validate a stable baseline and help define future requirements. Meanwhile, the PM continues to incorporate Marine Corps-specific capabilities into Block 2 before conducting developmental testing for the Marine Corps version. The Marine Corps Operational Test and Evaluation Agency plans to conduct operational testing in mid-FY04. DOT&E will continue to monitor and assess the TC-AIMS II through the Integrated Product Team process.